

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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66

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 PA-04

RSC-01 USIA-15 PRS-01 SP-03 PM-07 NSC-07 SS-20 L-03

DRC-01 /093 W

----- 098957

R 202012Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0514

C O N F I D E N T I A L SANTO DOMINGO 2056

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT ORDERS RELEASE OF PRISONERS

1. PRESIDENT JOAQUIN BALAGUER, ON MAY 17, ORDERED THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF 20 PRISONERS DESCRIBED AS BELONGING TO "DIFFERENT EXTREMIST PARTIES." THE PRESS BULLETIN FROM THE PRESIDENTIAL PRESS AND INFORMATION OFFICE, WHICH ANNOUNCED THE RELEASE, DESCRIBED THE MOVE AS A "GESTURE OF GENEROSITY" FROM THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE.
2. NEWSPAPER ACCOUNTS INDICATED THAT AT LEAST TWO OF THE TWENTY PRISONERS HAD BEEN SEEN OUTSIDE PRISON FOR MORE THAN A WEEK.
3. AMONG THE TWENTY PRISONERS TO BE FREED WERE SIX EX-MILITARY MEN ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN THE ANTI-GOVERNMENT COUP PLOT LED BY EX-GENERAL ELIAS WESSIN Y WESSIN IN 1971. UNCONFIRMED RADIO REPORTS CLAIMED THAT SEVERAL OF THE PRISONERS WERE FORMER MEMBERS OF THE LA BANDA (PRO-GOVERNMENT TERRORIST GROUP ACTIVE IN 1971.

COMMENT: VARIOUS GROUPS, INCLUDING THE SANTIAGO ACCORD PARTIES, HAD DEMANDED THE RELEASE OF "POLITICAL" PRISONERS BEFORE THE ELECTIONS. THE ACCORD MADE THE ISSUE A CONDITION FOR ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS. THE
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PRESIDENT ASSERTED SEVERAL TIMES BEFORE THE ELECTIONS

THAT HE HAD APPROVED A PLAN FOR THE RELEASE OF PRISONERS
BUT SAID HE HAD BEEN FORCED TO CANCEL THE PLAN AFTER THE
ATTACK BY MOVIMIENTO POPULAR DOMINICANO (MPD) MEMBERS
ON THE LA VEGA OFFICE OF THE CENTRAL ELECTORAL BOARD ON
APRIL 3.

HURWITCH

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: PRISONER RELEASE, EXTREMISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 20 MAY 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GarlanWA
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SANTO02056
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740125-0579
From: SANTO DOMINGO
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740533/aaaabdil.tel
Line Count: 67
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
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Page Count: 2
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Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GarlanWA
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 18 SEP 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <18 SEP 2002 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <26 FEB 2003 by GarlanWA>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: PRESIDENT ORDERS RELEASE OF PRISONERS
TAGS: PINT, DR
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005